The member next spoke about the pension system obtaining in the public service and stated that instead of this a system of Provident Funds should be instituted. Provident Funds were useful in many ways. Instead of getting small amounts every month, the officer would in the first place get a lump amount on retirement from service. Secondly, under the pension system the family of an officer who died immediately after retirement would get nothing, whereas in the case of the Provident Fund, the family would get as much as the officer himself would have got had he lived.

Lastly, the member stated that the price of anchal covers and cards should be reduced to 8 cash and 4 cash respectively as of old.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Abdul Khader, it is pleasing to find a non-official so careful in attempting here to benefit the official classes and in endeavouring to find a way to help them with capital at the end of their long period of service and ensuring to them a lump sum. The pension is provided to enable an officer of Government, when he can no longer work, to live in a manner befitting his position as a Government official. And as is so often the case, large sums of capital have a way of vanishing or frittering themselves into nothing. It is difficult to say which is preferable to which. The matter has already been taken up and is under examination.

You wish to see the value of the British Rupee reduced to 28 chackrams. I do not know whether we can reduce the value of the British Rupee. Its exchange is fixed in terms of silver. Currency questions are all very delicate and you know that any change in currency may throw trade and commerce into confusion. It is a very difficult and a very delicate matter and I do not think we need touch upon it at present.

You suggest the reduction of the price of Anchal cards and covers to 4 cash and 8 cash respectively. That matter was fully discusssed at the Legislative Council and the Government are at the present moment giving it their anxious consideration.

144. Communal representation.

MR. P. K. KUMARAN (*Member, Nominated*) speaking about communal representation said that the principle of communal representation in public service was recognised by the British Indian Government and the Governments of Baroda and Mysore. It was only proper that the same principle should be recognised by the Government of Travancore. About 85 per cent of the Government appointments in Travancore were now in the hands of caste-Hindus. Such a state of affairs could not continue. Each community had developed its own peculiar genius and it was necessary that this genius should be utilised by the State. So also in regard to the Legislative Council, the unrepresented and backward communities had to be given special electorates. In Cochin, special electorates were given to the Ezhavas. In the Madras Presidency, special electorates were given to the Non-Brahmins. In Travancore at least four out of the twenty-eight elected seats should be set apart for Ezhavas.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Kumaran, I must thank you for having entertained us with a description of the results of your study of conditions that prevail in various parts of India outside Travancore, and I have listened to the remedies you prescribe for the well-being of the Ezhavas and the Catholics and the Mahomedans and a few other people whom apparently you represent here.

145. Disabilities of the backward communities.

MR. N. R. KRISHNAN (*Member, Nominated*) said it was the birthright of every man to take part in the administration of the country in which he was born. The caste or the race of a man was not to disqualify him for doing that. But taking the administration of Travancore, it was in the hands of a few people. The greater majority of the people were not allowed an adequate share in the administration. They were kept away on the ground of inefficiency. There was some meaning in this exclusion in olden days, when these communities had not made much advancement in education because they were refused admission into educational institutions. But now they could get admission into schools and colleges and hence there were many educated men among them. So that, at the present time these communities could

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly